

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor and loving
2 memory of Dr. Pearse Lyons.

3 WHEREAS, "If you can't sell Kentucky as a place to do business, then you're not in
4 any shape or form a salesman, because it's an easy sell."—Pearse Lyons

5 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has lost one of its most treasured
6 sons. Dr. Pearse Lyons, businessman, philanthropist, and innovator, has passed at the age
7 of 73; and

8 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was born on August 3, 1944, to the late Thomas Kevin
9 and Margaret Lyons in Dundalk, Ireland. He was one of six children; and

10 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons' mother owned a small grocery shop, which he later
11 acknowledged as the inspiration behind his entrepreneurial drive. His first job was at the
12 age of 14 at Harp Lager in Dundalk, where he helped in the laboratory; and

13 WHEREAS, on his mother's side, Pearse Lyons came from five generations of
14 coopers who supplied barrels to distilleries in Ireland; and

15 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was educated at University College Dublin, where he
16 graduated with first-class honors. He went on to study at the British School of Malting
17 and Brewing in Birmingham, where he earned master's and doctoral degrees, and was the
18 first Irishman to receive a formal degree in brewing and distilling from the university; and

19 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons interned at the Guinness and Harp Lager Breweries and
20 worked as a biochemist for Irish Distillers, the makers of Jameson Whiskey. He was
21 instrumental in designing the Midleton Distillery for Jameson, an opportunity which he
22 considered to be a highlight of his early career; and

23 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons married his cherished wife, Deirdre, in 1972. Their
24 daughter, Aoife Louise, was born in 1973, and their son, Mark, was born in 1976. Both
25 his children are now full-grown and are leaders in the family business. Dr. Aoife Lyons is
26 a licensed clinical psychologist and global director of educational initiatives for the
27 company, while Dr. Mark Lyons is the president and chairman. Deirdre, the co-founder of

1 Alltech, is director of corporate image and design. She designs and outfits the company's
2 more than 80 offices around the world, and oversees Alltech's philanthropic involvement;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons moved to the United States in 1976, having been asked
5 by Irish distillery Gems Whisky to help ethanol distilleries in Kentucky improve their
6 processes; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1980, Pearse Lyons launched his own business. Alltech was begun
8 in his garage on an initial investment of \$10,000, with just enough money left over to pay
9 for groceries and mortgage. In its first year of operation, Alltech earned over a million
10 dollars; and

11 WHEREAS, Alltech's name is based on the initials of Pearse and Deirdre's
12 daughter, Aoife Louise Lyons. The company's logo color was their son's Mark's choice;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Alltech would become the fastest-growing company in the global
15 animal health and nutrition industry; and

16 WHEREAS, Alltech has a global team of more than 5,000 people, and the
17 company's mission has always been guided by Pearse Lyons' early commitment to the
18 "ACE principle," which is the promise that the company's work must have a positive
19 impact on the Animal, the Consumer, and the Environment; and

20 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons used his monumental success at Alltech to begin other
21 initiatives that would profoundly impact the Commonwealth. In 1980, he established The
22 Alcohol School in Lexington, which he ran for 25 years. He also co-authored *The Alcohol*
23 *Textbook*, which became a key source for the beverage, fuel, and industrial alcohol
24 industries; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1999, Pearse Lyons purchased the Lexington Brewing Company.
26 The first beer from Dr. Lyons' new brewery, Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling
27 Company, was Kentucky Ale, a blend of two classic beer styles—an Irish red ale and an

1 English pale ale. Another breakthrough came several years later when Kentucky Ale was
2 placed into freshly emptied bourbon barrels from nearby distilleries to soak up the fresh
3 bourbon and oak flavors. This brew was known as Kentucky Bourbon Barrel Ale and
4 soon became the brewery's flagship brew after its introduction to the market in 2006. It is
5 regarded as one of the forerunners of the bourbon-barrel aging trend in craft beer; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2008, using two copper pot stills brought in from Scotland, the
7 company distilled its first batches of whiskey in the brewery, and the company name was
8 changed to Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling Company. This new distillery was
9 added to the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and was the first craft distillery to be inducted into
10 the Kentucky Distillers' Association. Town Brand Distillery now produces a line of
11 spirits, including Pearse Lyons Reserve, a male whiskey introduced to the world on Dr.
12 Lyons' birthday, fulfilling his dream of one day having his own whiskey; and

13 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons continued to build upon his brewing and distilling
14 passion—and his legacy—when in 2017 he and Deirdre realized their dream of opening
15 an Irish whiskey distillery in Dublin. Their quest was to find the perfect location led them
16 to the long-abandoned St. James Church in The Liberties district of the city. The church
17 had been built prior to the Magna Carta, and Dr. Lyons and Deirdre set about
18 painstakingly restoring it. The design project was led by Deirdre, introducing iconic new
19 elements, such as a landmark glass spire—dubbed the "Liberties Lantern"—and stained
20 glass windows designed by Deirdre herself. The creation of the new Pearse Lyons
21 Distillery at St. James was made much more meaningful by the fact that Dr. Lyons' great-
22 grandfather and several other relatives were buried in the churchyard; and

23 WHEREAS, for his contributions to science and industry, Pearse Lyons was named
24 Business Person of the Year by *Business and Finance* Magazine. He also received the
25 prestigious Ireland-U.S. Council Award for Outstanding Achievement, and Irish Prime
26 Minister Enda Kenny recognized him with the St. Patrick's Day Science Medal in
27 recognition of creating a global business based on scientific research. He also received the

1 Henry Clay Medallion for Distinguished Service, past recipients of which include Sandra
2 Day O'Connor, Ted Turner, and Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein; and he was selected to
3 receive the Commander's Award for Public Service; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Lyons spearheaded Alltech's commitment to international
5 equestrian sport by sponsoring the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010 in
6 Lexington, which led to his receipt of the Commonwealth's first-ever Legacy Award in
7 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, Pearse and Deirdre Lyons share a deep passion for education. They
9 oversaw the construction of more than a dozen state-of-the-art science laboratories at
10 primary schools in Kentucky and Ireland; these labs were completed as a tribute to Dr.
11 Lyons' late brother, Father Kevin Lyons, a priest who had tirelessly worked to improve
12 the lives of children. Many of the schools with new labs went on to achieve coveted Blue
13 Ribbon Schools of Excellence status; and

14 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons also spent much of his professional life encouraging
15 aspiring scientists and entrepreneurs. The Alltech Young Scientist Program, the largest
16 global agriscience competition of its kind, has engaged more than 100,000 university
17 students. More than 450 undergraduates have completed an internship at the Alltech
18 Center for Animal Nutrigenomics and Applied Animal Nutrition in Kentucky, and nearly
19 440 graduate students are being supported through Alltech's bioscience centers. Also at
20 the university level, Dr. Lyons initiated an Alltech Innovation Competition, which
21 awarded entrepreneurs with \$10,000, the same amount with which he founded Alltech;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was a passionate philanthropist whose giving had
24 touched the lives of so many people in this Commonwealth and across the world. He
25 proudly established Alltech's ACE Involvement Foundation, a charitable initiative to help
26 fund the company's philanthropic efforts. Eager to do something to support Haiti
27 following the 2010 earthquake, Dr. Lyons determined he would create a sustainable

1 Haitian enterprise that could provide a "hand up" to the country's residents. He found a
2 gem in the country's 100 percent mountain-grown, organic Arabica coffee. These efforts
3 include Alltech Cafe Citadelle, a Haitian coffee that offers "a cup of hope," the profits of
4 which are reinvested into two primary schools in northern Haiti; and

5 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons was particularly well-known for leading Alltech's
6 international conference, branded in recent years as ONE: The Alltech Ideas Conference.
7 Held for more than three decades, the event has become Lexington's largest annual room
8 booking, attracting nearly 4,000 people from more than 70 countries; and

9 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons lived his life with passion, energy, and a boundless sense
10 of purpose; and

11 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body pause on this day to reflect on Pearse
12 Lyons' many accomplishments, and to duly thank him, his wife Deirdre, and all those at
13 Alltech who will oversee the enduring vision Dr. Lyons began in that garage almost four
14 decades ago; and

15 WHEREAS, on March 8, 2018, Pearse Lyons departed this earthly life, leaving
16 everyone whose lives he touched—in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in his beloved
17 Ireland, and across the world—in solemn mourning; and

18 WHEREAS, Pearse Lyons is survived by his loving wife, Deirdre; daughter, Aoife;
19 son, Mark and his wife, Holly; and a host of other family members, friends, and loved
20 ones who will dearly miss his presence in their lives;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
23 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

24 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives, both individually and
25 collectively, hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Dr. Pearse
26 Lyons, and posthumously thank him for the enduring legacy he leaves behind in our
27 Commonwealth.

1 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
2 honor and loving memory of Dr. Pearse Lyons.

3 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
4 copy of this Resolution to Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo for delivery to the family.